THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) Brahmaputra Board prepared 4 nos. modified Master Plans during 1996-97 for Jia-Bharali, Champamati, Pagladiya and Dikrong rivers in Assam. Master Plan has suggested suitable measurs for desiliation.

The 9th Plan document has not been finalised by the Union Government.

(c) to (f) Brahmaputra Board has started survey and investigation for preparation of Master Plan for protection of Majuli Island. Board will also conduct a model study of Brahmaputra segment on Majuli Island for working out viable solution and formulating a specific scheme for protection of Majuli Island.

A sum of Rs. 60.65 lakh and Rs. 24.10 lakh have been provided for river modelling of the river Brahmaputra at Majuli, segment of Majuli Island and for preparation of exclusive Master Plan for the island respectively by Brahmaputra Board.

Conventional Methods for Water Collection

2924. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken or propose to take steps to revive the conventional methods for water Collection;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (c) The National Water Policy (1987) stipulates that there should be an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach to the development and management of water resources. Thus, the present strategy in Water Resources Development and management in the country is based on a mix of options consisting of large, medium and small surface water storage, diversion and lift schemes, ground water development through deep/shallow tubewells and open wells and micro watershed development schemes besides other conventional methods of water collection. Each of the above mentioned options has its own place and a judicious mix of all these options is needed for the optimum utilisation and management of water resources in the country.

LPG Agency

2925. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of LPG agencies of various oil corporations functioning at present in the Nagpur District of Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to set up more LPG agencies in the district to meet the demand of LPG in the region;

(c) whether the existing LPG agencies are not releasing more LPG connections thereby causing great difficulties to the people there; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof and the steps Government propose to take to open new LPG agencies there ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

NH in Tripura

2926. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any plan to upgrade any of the roads of Tripura to the status of a National Highway during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal for upgradation of Agartala-Subroom road to a National Highway has been submitted by the Government of Tripura;

(d) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(e) the initiatives taken by the Union Government to make the Agartala-Churaibari portion of the NH-44, a double lane highway ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The upgradation of Agartala-Subroom road to National Highway standard has been included in the new initiatives announced by the Prime Minister during October, 1996. The State Govt. of Tripura has entrusted this road for upgradation to Border Road Organisation and the work is in progress.

(e) The widening of Agartala-Churaibari Section of NH-44 will be taken up depending upon inter-se priority and traffic volume during the 9th Five Year Plan which is yet to be finalised.